

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EIND, HA

SUBJECT: DUPONT CARIBBEAN

FOR CARBONE AND AID LAWYER MARQUEZ

, AT REQUEST STATE/AID LAWYERS, DON PIERSON HAS WRITTEN LETTER TO MARQUEZ OUTLINING HIS VIEWS ON ALLEGED UNJUST ENRICHMENT ASPECT OF HIS CLAIMS AGAINST GOH IN DUPONT CARIBBEAN (DCI) INVESTMENT DISPUTE. FULL LETTER BEING POUCHED MAY 6. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF PIERSON'S CLAIMS.

A. KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH: WHEN PROJECT CONCEIVED IN 1967, LITTLE WAS KNOWN ABOUT CREATION AND OPERATION OF PRIVATELY FINANCED FREEPORT DEVELOPMENT. FREEPORT, BAHAMAS WAS ONLY KNOWN PRIVATE FREEPORT. PIERSON ENGAGED IN EXTENSIVE RESEARCH IN BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, AND LAW FOR FOUR-YEAR PERIOD. EXTENSIVE CARTOGRAPHIC SURVEYS, LAND USE STUDIES, PHYSICAL RESEARCH ALSO REQUIRED, AND THIS INVOLVED AERIAL AND ON-SITE RESEARCH, AS WELL AS EXTENSIVE ARCHITECTURAL AND OVERALL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING BY SEVERAL FIRMS, INCLUDING HELLMUTH, OBATA AND KASSABAUM INC. OF ST. LOUIS. GOH HAD VERY LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF TORTUGA BEFORE THIS RE-

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SEARCH UNDERTAKEN. PIERSON PLACES MINIMUM VALUE OF THIS

RESEARCH, PLANNING, EXPERTISE, AND WORK AT DOLS. 2.25 MILLION.

B. PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS: CONSTRUCTION OF AIRSTRIP CAPABLE OF HANDLING MEDIUM SIZE (C-47) CARGO AIRCRAFT. (PREVIOUSLY THERE WAS NO AIR CONNECTION WITH TORTUGA.) NO ROADS EXISTED, BUT BY MARCH 1973 DCI HAD CONSTRUCTED 18 KILOMETERS OF ALL-WEATHER ROADWAY AND POSSIBLY AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF UNPAVED ROADS ALLOWING ACCESS TO VIRTUALLY ALL OF WESTERN TIP OF ISLAND. TEMPORARY WATER AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS, A PORTABLE GENERATING STATION, A RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SHACK, AND A BASIC BARGE LANDING FOR OFF-LOADING HEAVY MACHINERY WERE CONSTRUCTED. PIERSON PLACES MINIMUM VALUE AT DOLS. 2 MILLION.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC BENEFITS: DCI/PIERSON BROUGHT FOREIGN INVESTORS AND BUSINESSMEN TO VISIT PROJECT. THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS FOR HOTEL AND TRAVEL EXPENSES SPENT IN HAITI. SOME BUSINESSMEN RETURNED TO INVEST IN HAITI IN BUSINESSES RANGING FROM CHINESE RESTAURANT TO SPORTING GOODS STORE. TOKEN VALUE OF THESE BENEFITS PLACED BY PIERSON AT DOLS. 200,000.

D. INDIRECT ECONOMIC BENEFITS: IN PIERSON'S VIEW THIS IS GREATEST AREA IN WHICH HAITI ENRICHED ITSELF AT EXPENSE OF DCI/PIERSON. BAD PRESS HAITI HAD BEEN RECEIVING IN 1960'S WAS COUNTERED BY PERSISTENT AND DILIGENT PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK DONE BY DCI/PIERSON, THROUGH NEWS RELEASES, VISITS BY MEDIA TO HAITI ARRANGED BY PIERSON/DCI, AND FOLDERS DCI SENT TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. PIERSON PLACES MINIMUM VALUE OF THESE BENEFITS AT DOLS. 5 MILLION.

2. NUMBER OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ENCLOSED WITH PIERSON'S LETTER ALSO BEING POUCHED.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON FOREGOING, PARTICULARLY ON WHICH OF THOSE ITEMS IN PARAGRAPH 1, A THROUGH C FOR WHICH TRANSLINEAR MIGHT CLAIM CREDIT.

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